Fake killings in Siachen

790. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain incident of encounters in Siachen are suspected to be fake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that officers involved in the fake encounters were awarded gallantry awards on account of these encounters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Acomplaint dated 3rd December, 2003 regarding the alleged fake killings in the Siachen Glacier, addressed to the Chief of Army Staff, was received from Major Suhnder Singh. Based on the allegations, Army Headquarters directed Headquarters, Northern Command on 27th December, 2003, to conduct a Court of inquiry.

The Army Headquarters has reported that the Court of Inquiry revealed that allegations made by Major Suhnder Singh against his Commanding Officer have not been substantiated. The Court of Inquiry found that Major Surinder Singh had levelled allegations against his Commanding Officer after he was warned by the Commanding Officer for giving false report while deployed in Siachen Glacier. Major Surinder Singh was also blamed for preparing video films of fake killings on 24th August and 21 st September, 2003 in Siachen Glacier while he was the Offier Commanding of a Company.

Based on the findings and directions of the Court of Inquiry, concluded in February, 2004, disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Major Surinder Singh.

No gallantry awards were given on account of the said fake killings.

Requisite measures, in terms of checks and balances exist in the system, to detect any such attempts at misreporting of incidents. The system of monitoring operations by commanders at all levels is being further strengthened to obviate such attempts of misreporting.